

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/501,718

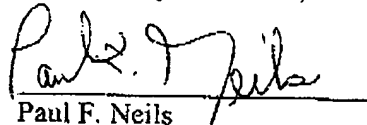
REMARKS

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 C.F.R. § 1.121) mailed November 23, 2004, Applicant submits herewith an updated version of the Preliminary Amendment previously filed October 24, 2001.

The undersigned respectfully points out that, at the time the Preliminary Amendment was originally filed (October 24, 2001), the Preliminary Amendment was in compliance with the rules at that time.

The foregoing amendments are made in order to remove multiple dependencies and avoid the Government surcharge. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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